

# Caterer

Middle East

Serving the region's catering professionals

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## CHOOSING CHAMPIONS

PRESENTING THE WINNERS OF THE CATERER MIDDLE EAST AWARDS 2009:  
THE CREAM OF THE CATERING CROP

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## Commis Chef of the Year

### Prabakaran Manickam

Commis chef, The Meat Co, Souk Al Bahar

#### Judges' notes:

Prabakaran Manickam is clearly a hard-working young chef, having climbed the ladder within this operation by displaying "maturity and discipline well beyond his years".

Although this means he has had to face a variety of new challenges in a comparatively short space of time, he has undertaken every new duty with the same enthusiasm and diligence.

Manickam really stood out through his commitment to both the team and training younger members, insisting on coming in to help out on training days even on his days off.

#### Highly commended

Akila Fernando, Sumibiya, Radisson Blu Hotel, Dubai Deira Creek

#### A word from the winner:

"I'm feeling so happy — it was completely unexpected thing for me!

"I just thank God for this, as well as our executive chef Roy Soundranayagam, our general manager Joseph Chalfoun, our admin controller Peta Soundranayagam and the whole team at The Meat Co. They have helped me and motivated me all along the way.

"I think this is a real boost for me and my career — and I think really the win comes down to the efforts and training that my employers have given me."



## Waiter of the Year

### Daniel Coitzer

Captain, Asado, The Palace – The Old Town

#### Judges' notes:

Daniel Coitzer's dedication to ensuring guests a top experience has been demonstrated by his dedication to collecting customer comment cards as well as his ability to problem-solve, should an issue arise during service.

The management also spoke extremely highly of Coitzer, and these testimonials were highlighted by the fact that he has been nominated twice this year as best employee of the quarter.

#### Highly commended

Gagan Deep Singh, Neos,  
The Address, Downtown Burj Dubai  
Evans Misiani, Spice Island,  
Renaissance Dubai Hotel

#### A word from the winner:

"I feel very happy and proud of myself — it's great to be acknowledged for what you're doing, and to get this award in Dubai where, as one of the biggest tourism destinations, the F&B market is extremely competitive. So it's definitely a great accolade to win.

"For me it's not just about myself; it's about the kind of team you have. It's all about your leader and your colleagues, because if your team is supporting you, only then can you be the best you can be.

"I knew I was nominated, but to even get short-listed for an award is a real honour!

"I definitely won't let the win go to my head. It's important to stay who you are, because if you stay on a real level and remain focused, that's how you will excel and achieve."

